

Blockhouse at Fort Edgecomb
N. Edgecomb, Maine

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District of Maine

Historic American Buildings Survey
Josiah T. Tubby, District Officer
537 Congress Street, Portland, Maine

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"FORT EDGECOMB"

(Davis Island)

N. Edgecomb, Lincoln County, Maine

Owner

State of Maine

Date of Erection

1809

Builder

U. S. Government. (Major Moses Porter, U. S. Army Engineer, laid out the land).

Present Condition

Of the buildings which were originally constructed at the fort, only one two story octagonal blockhouse remains. Traces of the ground work may be seen. The remains of the brick magazine which was six feet wide, seven feet high, and seven feet long can be seen beneath the water battery in the east section of the fort. The blockhouse has been extensively repaired in recent years.

Description

The blockhouse is a two story octagonal structure, with a watch tower in the roof. The second story overhangs the lower one about three feet. Exterior walls and roof of the structure are shingled. There are portholes in the first and second stories for the use of musketry. Windows are heavily shuttered. The foundation of the blockhouse is of brick. The structure is framed of heavy squared timber, dovetailed at the corners.

Other Existing Records

"Maine Forts" by Henry E. Dunnack

"Sprague's Journal of Maine History" Vol. 14

Additional Data

On the east front of the fortification was a long low range of strong barrack-houses, near which was a brick bake house. On the west was a long row of low rooms for storage, at the foot of which was a quay or landing for barges. The fort had a heavy stockade, guarded by great timber gates. The faces of the batteries were whitened with plaster as were the blockhouses and barracks.

The water batteries were enclosed with heavy oak palisades, ten feet high, dovetailed together, picketed and pierced; with a heavy central door, and along the parapet wing eighteen pounder guns were mounted.

The interior excavation was floored entirely with plank and timber, like the gun deck of a ship.

In a report made to the House of Representatives in 1811, this fort is described as a small enclosed battery, with six heavy guns mounted, covered by a block house which answered for barracks for one officer and twenty men. The number of men then stationed at the fort was listed as seventy-eight.

The fort is said to have been garrisoned until August 1816. It was again garrisoned in 1864.

The State of Maine purchased the Fort from the United States Government in 1923.

Eleanor C. Jannell

Approved:

Joseph J. Tubley

March 3, 1937

11/10/37